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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A CENTURY OF PRESIDENTS.

In verse
By
MARY L. PETER.





A
CENTURY
OF
Presidents of the United States
FROM
GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1789,
TO
BENJAMIN HARRISON, 1889,
WITH
IMPORTANT EVENTS THAT OCCURRED DURING EACH
ADMINISTRATION.

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3061
In Verse.

BY

MARY L. PETER.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1891,

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in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

TO MY DÉAR BROTHER,

W. T. W.

WHOSE INTEREST IN THE WRITING OF THE FOLLOWING
PAGES HAS BEEN BOTH ENCOURAGING AND IN-
SPIRING, THIS LITTLE WORK IS NOW
MOST AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED,

BY THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

As the well-known lines beginning,

“First William, the Norman,

Then William, his son,”

have enabled many children to remember, in their order, the English Sovereigns; so this little work is offered to young students of American history, in the hope, that its metrical arrangement may fix in their memories, not only the names of the Presidents, but also the more important events that occurred during each administration.

NAMES OF THE PRESIDENTS.

<i>First,</i> GEORGE WASHINGTON.	
<i>Second,</i> JOHN ADAMS.	<i>Thirteenth,</i> MILLARD FILLMORE.
<i>Third,</i> THOMAS JEFFERSON.	<i>Fourteenth,</i> FRANKLIN PIERCE.
<i>Fourth,</i> JAMES MADISON.	<i>Fifteenth,</i> JAMES BUCHANAN.
<i>Fifth,</i> JAMES MONROE.	<i>Sixteenth,</i> ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
<i>Sixth,</i> JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.	<i>Seventeenth,</i> ANDREW JOHNSON.
<i>Seventh,</i> ANDREW JACKSON.	<i>Eighteenth,</i> ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT.
<i>Eighth,</i> MARTIN VAN BUREN.	<i>Nineteenth,</i> RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES.
<i>Ninth,</i> WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.	<i>Twentieth,</i> JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD.
<i>Tenth,</i> JOHN TYLER.	<i>Twenty-first,</i> CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR.
<i>Eleventh,</i> JAMES KNOX POLK.	<i>Twenty-second,</i> GROVER CLEVELAND.
<i>Twelfth,</i> ZACHARY TAYLOR.	<i>Twenty-third,</i> BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Let the children compare the names of the Presidents in rhyme, with this table, that they may see for themselves that the proper order of the names is exactly preserved.

Names of the Presidents in Rhyme.

First Washington, then Adams,
Next Jefferson we view;
James Madison, Monroe, and then
John Adams' son—John Q.

After General Jackson
Van Buren's name we trace,
Preceding Harrison, who died;
John Tyler took his place.

Then Polk, and General Taylor,
Who shortly met his fate,
When Fillmore, his Vice-President,
Became chief magistrate.

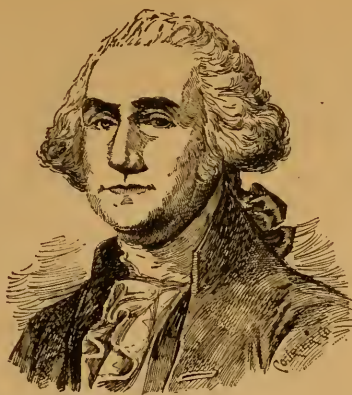
Frank Pierce, and James Buchanan,
Then Lincoln, who was slain;
His life was made a sacrifice,
The Union to maintain.

And after Johnson, Grant,
A soldier valiant, tried,
Followed by Hayes, then Garfield,
Who like a martyr died.

Arthur was the twenty-first,
Then Grover Cleveland came,
And eighty-nine brought Harrison,
The second of his name.

Andrew Jackson was the seventh President, and Andrew Johnson the seventeenth.

1789.



1797.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Washington—Father of our Nation,
 First in war, in peace, in station,—
 Did, as our leader, thus advise:
 “Lay foundations deep and wise,
 From alliances refrain,
 Neutrality with all maintain.”
 His Cabinet¹ with care selected,
 By Hamilton’s wise aid directed,
 That firm our currency might stand,
 A Mint and Central Bank they planned;
 And with a rare financial skill,
 The war-drained Treasury to fill,
 And foster manufacturing—laid
 A tax on stills and import-trade.
 For whisky’s tax one State² rebelled;
 “Mad Anthony”³ the Indians quelled.
 Soon foreign credit we attained,
 And treaties with three nations⁴ gained.

¹
 WASHINGTON’S
 CABINET.

Sec. of State,
 Thomas Jefferson.
 Sec. of the Treas.,
 Alexander Hamilton.
 Sec. of War,
 Henry Knox.
 Attorney-General,
 Edmund Randolph.

²
 Pennsylvania.

³
 General Wayne.

⁴
 England, Spain,
 Algiers.

⁵
 This invention was
 made in 1793, and Whit-
 ney, Arkwright and
 Watt were called the
 three great inventors
 of the age.

The arts of peace, by wisdom led,
 A genial influence o’er us shed.
 An unknown value was revealed
 In every Southern cotton-field,
 When Whitney’s⁵ inspiration wrought
 The change his cotton-gin has brought.
 The inventive genius of the age,
 Thus early gave forth rich presage.

1797.

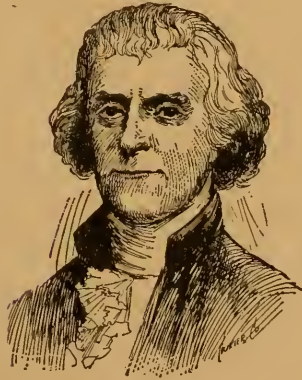


1801.

JOHN ADAMS.

John Adams, our next President,
 Unpopular became ;
 His "Alien and Sedition" laws
 Brought censure on his name.

1801.



1809.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

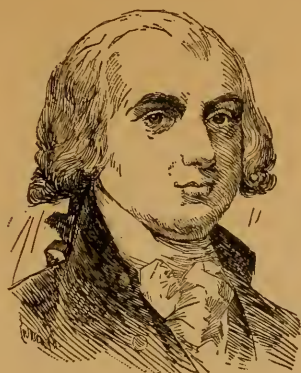
¹
 The Declaration of
 Independence, July 4th,
 1776.

²
 In 1803, for \$15,500,000,
 Jefferson purchased
 the Louisiana tract from
 Napoleon Bonaparte.

Through Jefferson, whose Declaration
 Made us an independent nation,
 We purchased Louisiana² land,
 And Mississippi's gate so grand.

Within this term was set afloat
 Robert Fulton's first steamboat.

1809.



1817.

JAMES MADISON.

Came Madison.—Victorious
 Our arms on sea and lake,
 Did, for Columbia's naval fame,
 A valiant record make.

¹⁸¹²
 This war was with
 England, in 1812, and
 long spoken of as the
 late war.

1817.



1825.

JAMES MONROE.

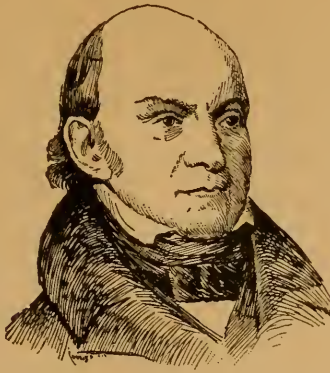
Monroe's² most famous doctrine reads :
 "The Foreign Powers that dare
 Set foot upon this continent,
 Our foes we will declare."

Fair Florida³ then came to us,
 A rich and welcome prize,
 And Henry Clay, with skill, obtained
 Missouri's compromise.

Monroe's² administra-
 tion was known as the
 "era of good feeling."

Florida was purchased³
 from Spain, for \$5,000,-
 000.

1825.



1829.

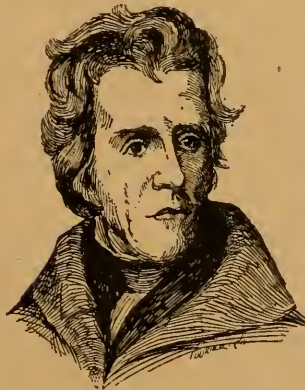
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

¹
The Erie Canal was opened in 1825, and in derision was called 'Clinton's ditch.'

In time of Adams' son—John Q.—
Improvements great were planned;
Clinton's canal,¹ 'twixt sea and lake,
And railways² through the land.

²
First railroad completed 1826, at the Quincy granite quarries, Mass. In Jan. 1827, nine miles were finished from the coal mines at Mauch Chunk to the Lehigh river.

1829.



1837.

ANDREW JACKSON.

"Old Hickory" this chief was called—
'Though Jackson was his name;—
When Carolina "nullified,"
He quenched rebellion's flame.

1837.

1841.



MARTIN VAN BUREN.

Van Buren, "Sage of Kinderhook,"
 Found trouble near and far;
 The money crash of thirty-seven,
 And Canada's brief war.¹

¹
 This war was known
 as the "Patriot War."

March 4,
 1841.

April 4,
 1841.



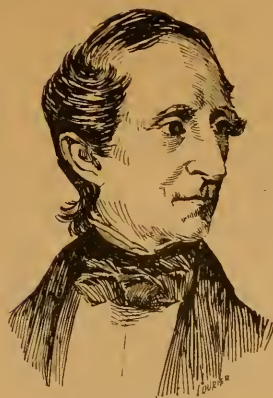
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Brave William Henry Harrison,
 "Hero of Tippecanoe,"²
 For only one short month did rule,
 And then came "Tyler, too."³

²
 The Battle of Tippecanoe was fought in
 1811.

³
 "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," the refrain of
 the political song in
 1840.

April 4,
1841.



March 4,
1845.

JOHN TYLER.

¹ A dispute with England about the boundary line between Maine and Canada was settled in 1842 by Lord Ashburton and Daniel Webster.

² Dorr's rebellion, in Rhode Island, in 1841.

³ Anti-rent troubles in New York, in 1846.

⁴ First message sent by telegraph, was from Washington to Baltimore, in 1844.

The Northeast boundary,¹ uncertain,
Was fixed by Webster and Ashburton ;
Dorr's mad rebellion² set at rest ;
The anti-renters'³ claims suppressed ;
The telegraph⁴—oh, wondrous thought—
Flashed o'er the wire "What God hath wrought ;"
Of ill-famed Mormon first we heard ;
All this in Tyler's term occurred.

1845.



1849.

JAMES KNOX POLK.

While Polk was President, the blow
Was struck, by which, from Mexico,
We took a goodly heritage ;
And Texas, too—with forethought sage.
The Northwest bound'ry⁵ was defined,
And California's gold first mined.

⁵ The United States claimed its boundary line west of the Rocky Mountains to be 54° 40'. England insisted it was 49°. It was settled in favor of England.

About this time, for household aid,
A marvelous machine was made.
Grateful to good Elias Howe,
Let every weary seamstress bow.

**March 4,
1849.**



**July 9,
1850.**

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

“Old Rough and Ready,” loving term
For General Taylor’s name :
Too soon he died, and Fillmore then
Chief Magistrate became.

**July 9,
1850.**



**March 4,
1853.**

MILLARD FILLMORE.

Webster and Clay, those statesmen wise,
Perceiving danger near at hand,
Their peaceful measures did devise,
And many Compromises planned.

1853.



1857.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

With Pierce, came Kansas' border war,
Fierce party feuds waged near and far ;
All Compromises were defied,
And "Squatter Sovereignty " was cried.

1857.

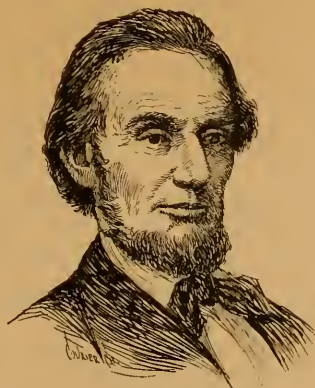


1861.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

When James Buchanan took the Chair,
Surcharged with discontent the air ;
The Dred Scott case, and John Brown's raid,
To frenzy roused, and tumult made.

March 4,
1861.



April 14,
1865.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

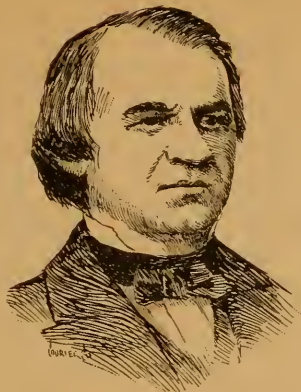
When Lincoln came, secession rose ;
Our country heaved with mighty throes
Of anguish, in the bloody strife
That nearly cost our nation's life.
Our trouble, all the world could see,
Was mainly caused by slavery.
To check the strife, 'twas plain we must
Crush this great wrong into the dust.
Then Lincoln, with a prescience rare,
"The will to do ; the soul to dare,"
Thus¹ to the God of battles, prayed :
"Most Holy Father, lend Thine aid
With full success this fray to crown ;
Then may we put this evil down."
The vict'ry came—the vow was paid
By his great Proclamation² made.
Six million slaves were freed ; no more
The badge of servitude they wore.

¹
On the eve of the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, Lincoln made a solemn vow to Almighty God that if the Union troops were successful, he would crown the result by a proclamation of freedom to the slaves.

²
This proclamation was made September 22, 1862, and went into effect January 1, 1863.

Four long years war o'er us hung,
Ere the bells of peace were rung.

April 14,
1865.



March 4,
1869.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

¹
Within six months after the close of the war, one million soldiers had returned to peaceful avocations.

²
In 1868 an attempt was made to impeach President Johnson for violating the Tenure of Office law, because he tried to remove from office Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War; but after a long trial Johnson was acquitted.

³
Through the enterprise of Cyrus W. Field the Atlantic cable was successfully laid June, 1866.

⁴
In October, 1867, Secretary Seward purchased Alaska from Russia, for the sum of \$7,000,000.

Soon, Lincoln by the assassin died ;

Johnson his vacant place supplied :

The army¹ peacefully disbanded ;

This President was reprimanded.²

Field's ocean wire,³ at length, was wrought,

And Seward⁴ rich Alaska bought.

1869.



1877.

ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT.

In war times, when oppressed with fear,
 We sought, but found no helper near,
 Came forth, our bleeding land to save,
 A soldier, patriotic, brave.
 Of many frays, the hero he,
 For conquest and for liberty.

When duty called us to declare
 Who best would fill the Ruler's Chair;
 With grateful, overwhelming voice,
 Intrepid Grant, we made our choice.

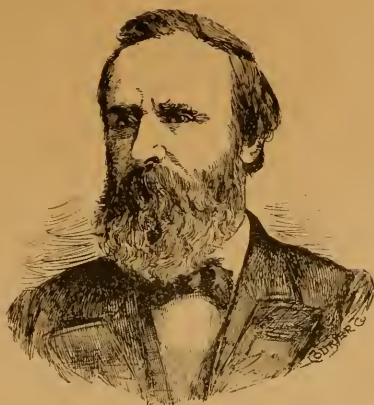
¹
 The first Pacific Railroad was completed in 1869.

²
 By the decision of a board of arbitrators, who met at Geneva, Switzerland; England paid the United States for the Alabama and other war claims, \$15,500,000, the same sum that President Jefferson paid France for the Louisiana tract.

³
 Bell's telephone was patented in 1876.

Within his term, complete, we find
 The Road¹ that does two oceans bind;
 The great Centennial Exposition;
 Our war claim² closed without collision;
 A wonderful invention, known
 As Bell's³ magnetic telephone;
 These mark his times; and next we name
 Chicago's fearful flood of flame.

1877.



1881.

RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES.

When Hayes came to the Chair of State,
His aim was to conciliate.
From Southern States our troops withdrew,
And confidence restored anew.

In 1878 the United States paid to England \$5,500,000 for trespassing on her fishing grounds.

Two Chinese treaties then were made;
The fish-award¹ to England paid;
And for the first time since the war,
Our currency was sold at par.

March 4,
1881.



Sept. 19,
1881.

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD.

A century had passed away
Since Revolutionary day;
And, from the civil war, a score
Of years had come and gone, before
Garfield assumed a Leader's care;
Whom still in grateful mind we bear
For just reforms; ere yet the blow,
Of wild fanatic, laid him low.

Sept. 19,
1881.



March 4,
1885.

CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR.

Then Chester Arthur, without blame,
By right, our President became.
The Edmunds-Tucker bill was passed,
Crushing polygamy at last.
The Star Route frauds, Law took in hand,
And cheaper postage¹ blessed the land.

¹
In 1883 one-half ounce letter postage was reduced from three to two cents. In 1885 one ounce letters required but two cents for postage.

1885.



1889.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

'Twas after twenty years and four,
A Democrat these honors wore ;
Cleveland his honest record made,
Tho' people did not choose free trade,—
Huge labor strikes and feuds arose,
And earthquakes sealed sad Charleston's woes.

1889.

18—



BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Year eighty-nine brought into view
A kinsman of old "Tip'canoe ;"
Another Harrison is Chief ;
And now—for good, or else for grief—
The tariff and the silver bills
Divide the people's votes and wills ;
And liquor traffic still defies
The legislation of the wise.

And thus the story of our land
Teaches to all this lesson grand,
That truth and virtue underlie
All national prosperity.
Come weal, come woe, to God we pray
The Stars and Stripes forever may
A welcome to our country wave—
Land of the Free, the True, the Brave.

NAMES OF THE PRESIDENTS

WITH PLACES AND DATES OF THEIR BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Born in Westmoreland Co., Va., February 22, 1732. Died at Mt. Vernon, Virginia, December 14, 1799.	GEORGE WASHINGTON.
Born at Braintree, Norfolk Co., Mass., October 30, 1735. Died at Quincy, Norfolk Co., Mass., July 4, 1826.	JOHN ADAMS.
Born at Shadwell, Albemarle Co., Va., April 2, 1743. Died at Monticello, Albemarle Co., Va., July 4, 1826.	THOMAS JEFFERSON.
Born in King George County, Va., March 16, 1751. Died at Montpelier, Hanover Co., Va., June 28, 1836.	JAMES MADISON.
Born in Westmoreland County, Va., April 28, 1758. Died in New York City, July 4, 1831.	JAMES MONROE.
Born at Braintree, Norfolk Co., Mass., July 11, 1767. Died in Washington, D. C., February 23, 1848.	JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.
Born in Waxhaw Settlement, Union Co., N. C., March 15, 1767. Died near Nashville, Tenn., June 8, 1845.	ANDREW JACKSON.
Born at Kinderhook, Columbia Co., N. Y., December 5, 1782. Died at Kinderhook, Columbia Co., N. Y., July 24, 1862.	MARTIN VAN BUREN.
Born in Berkeley County, Va., February 9, 1773. Died in Washington, D. C., April 4, 1841.	WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.
Born at Greenway, Nelson Co., Va., March 29, 1790. Died in Richmond, Virginia, January 18, 1862.	JOHN TYLER.
Born in Mecklenburg County, N. C., November 2, 1795. Died in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15, 1849.	JAMES KNOX POLK.
Born in Orange County, Virginia, November 24, 1784. Died in Washington, D. C., July 9, 1850.	ZACHARY TAYLOR.

NAMES OF THE PRESIDENTS

WITH PLACES AND DATES OF THEIR BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

(CONTINUED.)

MILLARD FILLMORE.	Born at Sumner Hill, Cayuga Co., N. Y., January 7, 1800. Died in Buffalo, Erie Co., N. Y., March 8, 1874.
FRANKLIN PIERCE.	Born in Hillsborough County, N. H., November 23, 1804. Died in Concord, New Hampshire, October 8, 1869.
JAMES BUCHANAN.	Born in Franklin County, Penn., April 22, 1791. Died in Lancaster, Lancaster Co., Penn., June 1, 1868.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.	Born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809. Died in Washington, D. C., April 15, 1865.
ANDREW JOHNSON.	Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, December 29, 1808. Died near Carter's Station, Carter Co., Tenn., July 31, 1875.
ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT.	Born at Point Pleasant, Clermont Co., O., April 27, 1822. Died at Mt. McGregor, Saratoga Co., N. Y., July 23, 1885.
UTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES.	Born in Delaware County, Ohio, October 4, 1822.
JAMES ABRAHAM GARFIELD.	Born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, November 19, 1831. Died at Elberon, Monmouth Co., N. J., September 19, 1881.
CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR.	Born at Fairfield, Franklin Co. Vt., October 5, 1830. Died in New York City, November 18, 1886.
GROVER CLEVELAND.	Born at Caldwell, Essex Co., N. J., March 18, 1837.
BENJAMIN HARRISON.	Born at North Bend, Hamilton Co., O., August 20, 1833.

PRESIDENTS UNDER WHOSE ADMINISTRATION STATES HAVE
BEEN ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

The thirteen English colonies, now known as "The Thirteen Original States," did not enter the Union at one time, but were admitted in the following order: Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1787; Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia and New York in 1788; North Carolina in 1789, and Rhode Island in 1790.

[To each State has been given a popular name, besides the one under which it was admitted to the Union. Delaware was called Diamond; Pennsylvania, Keystone; New Jersey, Garden; Georgia, Empire State of the South; Connecticut, Land of Steady Habits; Massachusetts, Bay State; Maryland, Old Line; South Carolina, Palmetto; New Hampshire, Granite State; Virginia, Mother of Presidents; New York, Empire State; North Carolina, Turpentine State; Rhode Island, Little Rhody.]

I. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

NO. OF STATE.	NAME OF STATE.	ADMITTED.
14th.....	Vermont (Green Mountain).....	March 4, 1791.
15th.....	Kentucky (Blue Grass).....	June 1, 1792.
16th.....	Tennessee (Volunteer).....	June 1, 1796.

III. THOMAS JEFFERSON.

17th.....	Ohio (Buckeye).....	November 29, 1802.
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IV. JAMES MADISON.

18th.....	Louisiana (Creole).....	April 8, 1812.
19th.....	Indiana (Hoosier).....	December 11, 1816.

V. JAMES MONROE.

20th.....	Mississippi (Bayou).	December 10, 1817.
21st.....	Illinois (Prairie).....	December 3, 1818.
22d.....	Alabama (Cotton).....	December 14, 1819.
23d.....	Maine (Pine Tree)	March 15, 1820.
24th.....	Missouri (Iron).....	August 10, 1821.

VII. ANDREW JACKSON.

25th.....	Arkansas (Bear)	June 15, 1836.
26th.....	Michigan (Lake).....	January 26, 1837.

X. JOHN TYLER.

NO. OF STATE.	NAME OF STATE.	ADMITTED.
27th.....	Florida (Peninsular).....	March 3, 1845.

XI. JAMES KNOX POLK.

28th.....	Texas (Lone Star).....	December 29, 1845.
29th.....	Iowa (Hawkeye).....	December 28, 1846.
30th.....	Wisconsin (Badger).....	May 29, 1848.

XIII. MILLARD FILLMORE.

31st.....	California (Golden).....	September 9, 1850.
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XV. JAMES BUCHANAN.

32d.....	Minnesota (Gopher).....	May 11, 1858.
33d.....	Oregon (Beaver).....	February 14, 1859.
34th.....	Kansas (Garden of the West).....	January 29, 1861.

XVI. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

35th.....	West Virginia (Switzerland of America).....	June 19, 1863.
36th.....	Nevada (Silver).....	October 31, 1864.

XVII. ANDREW JOHNSON.

37th.....	Nebraska (Black Waters).....	March 1, 1867.
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XVIII. ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT.

38th.....	Colorado (Centennial).....	July 1, 1876.
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XXIII. BENJAMIN HARRISON.

39th.....	Montana.....	November, 1889.
40th.....	Washington.....	November, 1889.
41st.....	North Dakota.....	November, 1889.
42d.....	South Dakota.....	November, 1889.
43d.....	Idaho.....	July, 1890.
44th.....	Wyoming.....	July, 1890.

The following Territories belong to the United States: New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Alaska, Indian Territory and Oklahoma, also the District of Columbia.



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